(xi) Utilization Certificate the previous financial year and the Audit certificate for the funds utilized in the year prior to the previous year have also been made the pre-requisites for the release of the second instalment in a year.

(xii) The role of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban and Local bodies as Implementing Agencies has been stressed.

Statistical system in the country

1901. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that statistical system in the country is still outdated and as a result the various statistics prepared by Union Government and its agencies fall short of accuracy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to modernize statistical system in the country; and

(d) the results achieved/proposed to be achieved thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) No Sir. In general statistics generated by the statistical system in the country are based on scientific methodologies and correctly reflect the situation in the country. However, in view of evolving new methodologies or advancement in technologies/statistical techniques, there is always scope for improvement in the statistical system.

(c) Major steps taken by the Government to modernize the statistical system in the country are as follows:

(i) Setting-up of a National Statistical Commission,

(ii) Implementation of World Bank assisted project, namely, India Statistical Strengthening Project,

(iii) Setting-up of a Central Institute for training in official statistics,

(iv) Setting-up of a data warehouse of official statistics, and

(v) Introduction of advance techniques for data processing.

(d) The expected achievements of these steps are:

(i) Constitution of the National Statistical Commission is expected to provide an effective and adequately empowered coordination mechanism for statistical activities in the country and to evolve national policies and priorities relating to the statistical system.

(ii) Successful completion of the implementation of the India Statistical Strengthening Project is expected to result in contributions towards strengthening of the State statistical system, establishment of strong communication links among various units of the statistical system, creation of a National Business Register to facilitate periodical surveys of business/economic units, improvement in the availability and quality of service sector statistics and better utilization of survey capabilities available in the private sector.

(iii) Setting-up of a Central Institute for training of official statistics will help in skill development of the persons dealing with official statistics in Central and State Governments.

(iv) Setting-up of a data warehouse of official statistics would make available core statistics from different sources to the users at one place.

(v) Introduction of advance techniques in data processing will enable quick processing of huge information through automated for processing and thus, will reduce the time lag in the release of the results.

Development proposals for Punjab

1902. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the pending development proposals submitted by State Government of Punjab; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and the details of the action taken by Government on these proposals and the reasons for their pendencey, proposal-wise?